

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
May 28, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Pastor Bob Szoke, Impact Christian Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mr. Minchuk was absent all other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Mr. Pettit wanted to acknowledge the Andean High School girls softball team and the boy's baseball team for winning sectionals and wish them luck on their way to Regionals.

Mr. Hardaway said he reappointed Bob Forrester for the Visitor's Bureau and asked Mr. Spires to get the letter ready to be sent out. Some discussion followed.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated May 28, 2019. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2019 and May 14, 2019. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mrs. Barron called a Budget and Finance meeting to be held on July 9th at 5p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Minchuk was absent. Mr. Pettit said a bid was awarded for the Rehab Project on East 73rd Avenue County Line Road this project was part of the Community Crossing Match Grants. Mr. Pettit read a letter from First Group Engineering the low bidder was Walsh & Kelly. Mr. Pettit said he makes a motion to award the bid to Walsh & Kelly based on the letter from First Group Engineering.

Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to award Walsh & Kelly based on the letter received from First Group Engineering and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pettit made mentioned of another project in town and referred to Mr. Spires for a report. Mr. Spires said opening bids will be held on June 11th for the Whitcomb Street Project which is also related to the Community Crossing Funds. Some discussion followed

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Ms. LaMarca said she has asked Mr. Spires to schedule a meeting for June 25th at 5:30p.m. to finalize the Pet Ordinance.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mr. Pettit said there was an Executive Session before the meeting today and would like to set a date for another session for June 5th at 5:30p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report. Mr. Hardaway addressed Mr. Petruch about residents complaining of noise's coming from cars riding through the neighborhoods with loud radios. Mr. Hardaway asked if patrol can sit out near Jefferson Place and observe this would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. Svetanoff said he was contacted by the in house council for Superior Ambulance and they had a couple of recommended changes to the agreement to come into compliance with State and Federal Laws. Mr. Sventanoff said he reviewed it with the in house council and they agreed on the changes and thinks it's best for the town council to approve the amended changes made.

Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ambulance contract with Superior Air Ground as is and was seconded by Mr. Spann and Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca had no report and referred to Ms. Olrich for a report. Ms. Olrich said that Impact Fee Study is complete after a talk with the town attorney it will be place on the Plan and Commission Agenda which will have to approve it prior before coming to the town council. Ms. Olrich said the Park Department is working on the Master Plan the plan requires us to hold two public meetings, the first was about a month ago and the second meeting is scheduled for June 18th at 5:30p.m. The Park Department also has planted all of the Gateway Signs with perennials

the sign located at the Raddisson was the only one that did not receive plants but will received them at a later date. Ms. Olrich gave information regarding the concert Centier Bank is going to provide banners; NWI Times will be doing promotional ads. The Parks Department has also added Programs to the Schedule which include: Cardio Kick Boxing, Nutrition Class and Ballroom Class these classes will run Monday-Thursday till 7:30p.m. with some early classes on Friday. Ms. Olrich said she met with Mr. Minchuk about quotes for the Savannah Ridge Park equipment and the equipment has been order and should be in the at the end of June once the equipment arrives we will coordinate with Public Works on installing the new equipment. Ms. Olrich said the Parks Department is now taking application for the Independence Parade the application are available on the town website and can be dropped off at the Parks Department. Some discussion followed.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Barron announced that Lake County Solid Waste has closed their Recycling Center located at the Government Complex due to illegal dumping.

Mr. Lake said that there was a complete comprehensive review done on the Saxon Apartments due to the problems with Bradfield Subdivision all comments were sent out to Terrane Engineering for review and will be presented at the next Plan Commission Workshop on June 4th an overview of the analysis and recommendations will be given. Mr. Lake said residents that lives on the north side of Merrillville had concerns with lateral 6 in regards to the opportunities of retention Mr. Burke is currently doing a study in Gary to bypass the lateral 6 to reduce the flow that comes into Merrillville and should be finished with those finding by mid-summer a presentation will be done at the next Storm Board meeting.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit said there was an Economic Development Committee meeting a couple weeks ago the committee heard a proposal from Mr. Thurston from Becknell. Mr. Pettit said Mr. Thurston would like to build a new building located south of the railroad tracks on Mississippi Street and has asked for the same Tax Abatement the town gave him on the north side of the tracks this will be discussed later on the agenda under Resolutions.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mr. Spann said Nipsco is still cutting trees down and has called Nipsco to inquiry about trees still undone.

Mr. Hardaway addressed Mr. Spires about talking with Nipsco. Mr. Spires said he has not herd back but he sent an email and will be flowing up with Nipsco tomorrow.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway had no report.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 19-13:

An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the local road and street fund for the year 2019 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 19-14:

An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending Ordinance 18-31 and pay for employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana for the calendar year 2019. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There some discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 19-15:

An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana providing that the Zoning Ordinance Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana be amended by changing the established C-2 community commercial zoning to PUD planned unit development district. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was some discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 19-13:

A preliminary resolution of the Town Council of Merrillville, Indiana, approving Real Property Tax Abatement. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 19-14:

Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, authorizing notices of public hearings regarding a preliminary determination to issue bonds or to undertake a lease financing. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner: A-1 Affordable Signs & Neon Co., Inc.
Owner: JST Properties
Request: Variance of use approval
Purpose: To allow an LED electronic message center
Location: 2300 West 81st Avenue
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial Zoning District
Case #: Z19uV5-0419
Conditions: Petitioner will advertise town events when requested.

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Petitioner: Meriam C. Czajka
Owner: 80th Place LLc
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: To allow an Asian-Filipino restaurant with mini bar and specialty grocery store.
Location: 40-44 West 80th Place
Zoning: C-2, Community Commercial Zoning District
Case #: Z20E11-0419
Conditions: For this petitioner only, at this location only, for this use and for this location only. Petitioner is aware of security camera Ordinance 18-10.

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was some discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Petitioner: Dr. Lonnie J. Jarvis
Owner: Tiger Group LLC
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: For a Church
Location: 7870 Broadway Suite I & J
Zoning: C-2, Community Commercial Zoning District
Case #: Z21E12-0519
Conditions: For this petitioner only, at this location only, for this use only.

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was some discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Petitioner: Lena Kessel
Owner: Randolph Street
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: For a Massage Therapy
Location: 8081 Randolph Street
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial Zoning District
Case #: Z22E13-0519
Conditions: For this petitioner only, at this location only, for this use only, this petitioner gives the guest register to the town for inspection.

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was some discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Stormwater Management Board meeting, June 4, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.
Plan Commission workshop meeting, June 4, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
Police Commission meeting, June 7, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.
Town Council meeting, June 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Barron made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Pettit.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer